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BRIEFING PAPER FOR THE PRESIDENT'S NEWS CONFERENCE
November 20, 1962

PAC EAST

Subject: Sino-Soviet Dispute

Question: Mr. President, how do you view the current Sino-Soviet dispute?

CURRENT SITUATION REPORT:

Both the Cuban crisis and Communist China's attack on India have placed new strains on Sino-Soviet relations. The Chinese Communists by inference accuse Khrushchev of "being cowed by the US imperialists' military pressure" (October Red Flag editorial); of failing to defend "the honor of being a Socialist Country" (October 31 People's Daily); and "of carrying out an appeasement policy toward US aggression" (November 5 People's Daily). The People's Daily November 18 stated that it was "pure nonsense" to say that "peace had been saved" by the withdrawal of missiles from Cuba. On the same day PRAVDA carried an article attacking Albanian Communists - and by implication Peking - for criticizing Soviet moves in Cuba and in general for coming out against "the peaceful settlement of international problems ... different forms of transition to socialism and ... the struggle for disarmament."

Also of significance, however, was the PRAVDA article of October 25 supporting - to the consternation of the Indians - Chinese proposals for settling the dispute with India. PRAVDA made the following significant points: "The Soviet Union and the Chinese Peoples Republic are bound by an old inviolable friendship. This friendship is based on an identity of aims: the building of socialism and communism ... in the struggle against the designs of imperialism the Soviet Union is entirely on the side of fraternal Great China." Further evidence of Soviet alignment in the Sino-Indian dispute will, however, be provided by the Soviet decision on whether or not to supply India with MIG-21's while the fighting continues.

The last public statement by a Department official (Mr. Roger Wilkins on November 8, 1962) included this observation: "Without going the case in detail, we must remember that the Communist ideology, with its goal of world revolution, still provides an overall basis for unity between Peking and Moscow. So long as both partners see the United States as the greatest obstacle to the attainment of this goal, they will try to patch over their differences

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDO/MR

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SUGGESTED ANSWER TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

I would not like to estimate the extent of the differences between these countries.

Clearances: NS - Governor Harrison

FE/P - Mr. Manell

SOV - Mr. Anderson

EUR/P - Mr. McGowan

P - Mr. Manning

YK - Mr. Davis

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